VZCZCXRO1631 OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK RUEHLH RUEHPW RUEHTRO DE RUEHIL #2870 2421056 ZNY CCCCC ZZH O 291056Z AUG 08 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8568 INFO RUEHIC/OIC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 9063 RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 8592 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0443 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3701 RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI PRIORITY 0051 RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 0239 RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 5979 RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 4786 RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 3847 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 8435 RUEHIL/ODRP ISLAMABAD PK PRIORITY RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 002870

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/29/2018

TAGS: PGOV PK PREL RU GG KPKO MARR

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN: RUSSIA/GEORGIA CONFLICT TOO FAR AWAY
GEOGRAPHICALLY FOR A STANCE

REF: A. SECSTATE 91894

1B. SECSTATE 90980

Classified By: Political Counselor, E. Candace Putnam, for reasons 1.4 (b), (d).

(C) On August 29, Poloff delivered reftel points to the Ayesha Farhat, the Assistant Director for the United Nations Division at the MFA, on rejecting Russia's recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states (Ref A) and rebutting Russia's spurious claims regarding the ceasefire agreement (Ref B). Similar to its stance on the independence of Kosovo, Pakistan desires to remain neutral on the Russia/Georgia matter and does not want to get involved unless otherwise directed by the Organization of Islamic Council (OIC), said Farhat. More importantly, Farhat noted that the Russia/Georgia conflict is "too far flung geographically" for Pakistan to become involved or to take a stance on the matter. She explained to Poloff that she would give the two matters due consideration and would provide any follow up information as it was provided to her. PATTERSON